

conglomerates, forget it. For talk radio shows, right now in America, the people that stand before me, there are more people standing before me than there are blacks and Hispanics on mainstream talk radio shows in America. The sign should be posted blacks and whites -- blacks and Hispanics are not allowed to be on talk radio. Now these big multimedia conglomerates don't have any problem at all, especially on VH-1 and MTV, strutting out Black and Hispanic females calling them the "B" word and the "H" word and making a big buck off of them.

(Applause.)

Mr. Glade, you are kidding yourself if you think there are actual diversity within Clear Channel stations. I've lived all over the country and listened to your stations all over the place and there are virtually no Hispanics at all on any of your local talk shows anywhere in America. And I find that really unacceptable because there are people that are talented and gifted that wanted the opportunity to apply, but they're not given a chance because, well, talk show listeners, the voice of conservative whites won't listen to a Hispanic male, and the Hispanics are mostly liberals, and they won't listen to a conservative

Hispanic. So, basically you got no ratings, no opportunities, so no blacks or Hispanics are ever given the chance to get into the mainstream of a.m. talk radio.

To wrap it up. Look, just look for yourselves. How many Hispanics and blacks are there? It's all about making money. It's not about giving opportunities. Most Hispanics here at 1200 do news, weather and janitorial. They don't have the mic. There's not one Hispanic in this station that works — in this area that works in the mainstream a.m. talk radio show, not one. Now, we have a 50.6 percent Hispanic population. Not one talented Hispanic can be found out there. Imagine that. That's amazing. Thank you very much for your time.

(Applause.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: My name's John Courage, and I'm with a group of San Antonio (sic) called Citizens for Ethical Government. And I want to start you off with a word of caution. I think we all have heard the adage that power corrupts and absolute power corrupts absolutely, and it appears that what the Commission is trying to do is put absolute power over media into the hands of very few, and I think we should

all be very well aware of what the results will be.

I think we can kind of take a look at the situation that we have with Wal-Mart, for example. What you have if you give the media newspapers, television, radio, it's like Wal-Mart coming into a town and taking on the pharmacy, the garage, the clothing store, and all of a sudden everybody in town is indebted to one institution.

(Applause.)

We don't need that. What we do need is diversity. What we do need is to have an exchange of ideas. What we do need is to ensure that the public interest is represented, and it's not represented by three or five or eight. It's represented by hundreds. And so, I would urge strongly that the FCC not allow further conglomeration. Let's go ahead and make sure that every voice is heard in our airwaves. It does belong to the public. You're in control of those decisions. You need to make the right decisions for the people, not for the corporations.

(Applause.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. I'm Timothy Roan (phonetic). I'm from San Antonio, and I teach little children. Localism and media cannot be

discussed without addressing the issue of media ownership consolidation. The two issues are intertwined, as it is because of increased consolidation that local interests represented in the media have suffered. Indeed, fewer owning more is a bad mix. Putting the immense responsibility and power of media control into the hands of a few is a recipe for mono-cultural, sanitized, biased viewpoints, from newscasts to sitcoms. When headquarters in San Antonio is planning the direction a station in Seattle will be going, how can true localism succeed? The answer is not rhetorical. The answer is: It cannot.

Diversity diminishes as fewer and fewer voices are heard. As fewer and fewer companies are controlling more and more of the airwaves, the voices of those left out become weaker and weaker. The whims of the few media controllers become the cultural norms of the nation.

No recent example is more obvious than the situation that occurred with the musical act, the Dixie Chicks. You may know that the band made remarks about the U.S. admin — U.S. administration, and subsequently they were systematically boycotted nationwide, regardless of what the public thought. These actions

were pursued from the very top of the mainstream media corporate hierarchy, and mandated down to every station under their control, with no consideration of local sentiment, interest or viewpoints.

I urge this Commission to put aside the all powerful coercion of corporate lobbyists and pay attention to the tens of thousands of American citizens you will encounter in your six community meetings around the nation who demand diversity in the public airwaves. Thank you.

(Applause.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. My name is Sherry Chandrey (phonetic), and I'm here representing CAIR, which is the Counsel on American and Islamic Relations here in the United States, and we're based out of Washington and I'm representing a San Antonio Chapter.

I would just like to talk to the FCC about localism in the community. We're a new chapter and we're hoping to get that influence in the media as far as representation on our group and organization. And with the status of the country right now and what's going on overseas, I'm hoping that the influence of the media will also protect the American citizens in this

country that are Muslims, that have lived here for years and generations, and the ones that are here as citizens today.

And I'm hoping that the FCC will also make sure that the media coverage is not biased based on who's President and who's not President. I would like to know that the influence of the media is not based on politics, but's based on news. I know that you're the gatekeepers of democracy in this country, and that you have heard this over and over again, and we hope the freedom of speech and the freedom of what we hear in the news and everything else is, is clearly free — freedom of the press, and that it's not controlled by politics.

And I have another hat. I just want 30 seconds — I'm a mother. I have four kids and it's so terrible sitting in front of the television and watching Victoria's Secret commercials with three boys, and if you can do anything about the programming on television today, it would be greatly appreciated for the people in the country that do still have moral values. Thank you.

(Applause.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi. How are y'all

doing? My name is Bracken (phonetic) Firecracker, and I'm a radio journalist and producer for WINGS, Women's International News Gathering Service —

(Applause.)

— which has aired women's news worldwide for over 17 years, and I've also worked with independent media, also known as Indymedia. I've worked with community radio stations and pirate radio stations, what we call free radio. And that's not something that I am ashamed to admit. You may ask why it's used to work with alternative media. The answer is simple. There is a complete and utter lack of diversity of people and opinions in corporately-owned media. Just look at this panel in terms of gender. Having only two women represented is not acceptable.

(Applause.)

Therefore — therefore, we the people are forced to create our own media. And we do this in various creative, creative — creative ways, such as radical cheerleading, something you probably won't hear on mainstream radio because we're not usually described as lovely ladies. We have something to —

(Applause.)

— say today — newspaper, TV, and radio,

who owns them? Would you like to know? They show you the world through the corporate eyes but their hidden agenda ain't no disguise. (Cheerleading.)

AUDIENCE SHOUTING: We see you. We know you. We don't believe you. We'll show you. But we've got more than booty for you. We've got something to say in a different way. And independent media is how we do.... (Inaudible and indistinguishable words.)

(Applause and shouting.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER. Good night. I'm bilingual, so I don't need a translator.

(Spanish.)

San Antonio has — it's composed majorly of Mexicans, Mexican-Americans or Chicanos, and we are bilingual. So, don't think of us of either speaking only English or Spanish.

(Spanish.)

Don't stereotype us. I want you to show what happens in my community. I want you to show the artists in my community that — I'm just going to say it in English because you're not going to give me two minutes.

I want you to, to reflect the art, the music, the volunteers, the activists, the teachers, and



the students and the curanderos, the healers. I want quality and accessibility. My students know that the programming is not —

(Spanish.)

— it's not appropriate for them. They told me themselves. I'm a teacher — I'm a second grade teacher. They told me Ms., tell them not to show violence. Ms., tell them to not to show programs that cuss. I — I'm a bilingual teacher. They watch Univision, and I want to ask you to create local programming. Don't import only from Mexico, from other countries, because they're already made.

(Spanish.)

(Applause.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: I hope you guys that don't speak Spanish get a translator to understand what she just told you, very important. Welcome to San Antonio, Chicano cultural capital of Texas and of the Southwest. This is our home. This is our home. There's two things I want to say. I'm going to try to get it as fast as I can.

The first thing, the most compelling argument that I have heard about — about the consolidation — in favor of consolidation, are the

nice things that Clear Channel is doing, Amber Alerts, giving money back. That's not going to go away under local control. If anything that's going to increase.

(Applause.)

So let's keep that in mind when we talk about Amber Alert. It's not going to go away. It's here, it's technology, it's not going to go away.

The main thing that I want to talk about is about us as Chicanos, as Latinos. We know we're — we're the second largest group — the second largest ethnic group in the country; largest minority group, second largest ethnic group, Chicanos, Mexicanos, 66 percent of the population. We're strong — 200, two — let me step back — 25 million strong in a growing population.

So why is it that there are a really low percentage of Latino broadcasters, Latino radio journalists, MCs, directors of programming? Why has that number dropped in recent years? Consolidated ownership will not increase that diversity. Despite our population making up half of this city, the face of media ownership does not reflect our population. Neither does the public face of media — the ones who we see every day reporting us the news. Is this the

future of broadcasting as we heard earlier today?  
Where are our voices? Red, white and blue America, we  
are your future, and whether you like it or not, we  
will be heard.

(Applause.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. My name  
is Renee Felts. I am co-director of the local news  
department at KPFT radio in Houston.

(Applause.)

We're a station that's part of the five-  
station Pacifica Network. Some view us as a biased  
source of news and views, but that means little to most  
people when you consider that Clear Channel is  
organizing and covering pro-war rallies on their  
airwaves.

(Applause.)

Clear Channel is a poster child of the  
effects of media deregulation you approved in 1996 and  
again in June of this year. Clear Channel is also  
notorious for its cuts to local news departments at the  
radio stations it purchases. Often these are  
award-winning news departments that are downsized or  
cut out completely and replaced with AP wire news.  
Profit-driven programming cannot support a thriving

local news department, and profit, not the public interest, cannot support a thriving democracy. You might even say it's un-American.

A major news story that receives little coverage in Texas, except on KPFT local news, is the death penalty. This internationally condemned killing machine executes more people, juveniles mentally ill and mentally disabled than any other state. Public debate on this issue — public debate on reforming or eliminating the death penalty is alive and well in Texas, but you wouldn't know it from reading the standard AP coverage that is about what this — is about all that this — the only coverage that this undoubtedly local issue receives.

As a journalist I cannot stand by silently and watch the media consolidation approved by the FCC keep the public in the dark about what is taking place in its community, especially on this important local issue. I urge you, fellow protectors of the public interest, to do your job and keep media regulation in place. Thank you.

(Applause.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Mr. Chairman,  
Commissioners, fellow broadcasters, my name is Steven

Yates. I'm the owner and general manager of four radio stations in East Texas. I'm a second generation broadcaster. My father pioneered radio in East Texas in 1938, signing on the first radio station between Houston and Dallas and was the only radio station in East Texas for ten solid years. With that one radio station we started, just like we are tonight, with an open microphone. We invited people to come down and get on the air, play their guitar, sing their songs and talk about their organizations.

We still do that today. With that one radio station we broadcast five different formats. We targeted the African-American, the Hispanics, the Anglo-Americans, the gospel listeners. Deregulation has helped my business better serve the public interest. With deregulation, I can now serve the Hispanic population with a full-time radio station. I can serve the African-American community with a full-time radio station. I can play more Zydeco music for those who want to hear that. My request lines burn up for those requests, and I answer the public interest. Deregulation has enabled me to better serve the public interest.

With one station now having — with

deregulation having more stations — for example, during 9/11, I was able to flip one switch and target four different formats, four different audiences about the disaster in New York. The day almost one year ago to right now when the orbiter Columbia disintegrated over the skies of East Texas, within minutes I was able to contact four different audiences with one flip of the switch, and let them know and choreograph and tell people where debris had fallen and help the authorities. So deregulation has helped me as a broadcaster, and I want you to know in defense of my — the competitors or the so-called conglomerates, they were right there as well. So localism is my life, and thank you for allowing me to better serve the public interest with deregulation.

(Applause and boos.)

AUDIENCE MEMBERS: Good evening. My name is Will Brown. I'm the Executive Director of the Palmer Drug Abuse Program, and I just wanted to share you some good news about localism and how we've benefited from it.

An example, in November of 2002, a group of teenagers in our program, and we're a program that serves teenagers and young adults and members of their

family, they asked me if there was something they could do to educate their peers in the community about the abuse of over-the-counter cough and cold medications. KSAT-12 and their anchor, Steve Spriester, was the first local outlet to respond. Thanks to KSAT'S coverage several local retail establishments responded by limiting access to these products, and local state representative Carlos Euresti submitted legislation on our behalf to protect teens in all retail locations throughout Texas. Unfortunately, this legislation failed.

KSAT continued to follow this story, and recently, the Partnership for a Drug Free America created a national awareness campaign, and they unveiled that campaign right here in San Antonio in front of me and about a hundred of our kids. Soon USA Today ran a cover story on this national trend. CNN, the Today Show, Good Morning America, 20/20 and Dateline NBC have run stories in the past 30 days. *People* magazine, *Time* magazine, and my personal favorite, *Good Housekeeping*, actually ran stories on this issue to their readers. So what began as a local story submitted by a really small organization in San Antonio has blossomed into a national alert and a

national call to action.

So I applaud KSAT-12, I applaud our ABC affiliate, I applaud Steve Spriester for listening to a community concern from a small nonprofit. So now millions upon millions of parents, teenagers, educators and community leaders have become aware of a potentially lethal abuse of available medication thanks to all these folks here.

(Applause.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening, Chairman, Commissioners and distinguished panelists. My name is Michelle... (inaudible) ...Brown, and I'm a board member of the San Antonio affiliate of the Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation. I was standing outside for four hours today, so thank you for extending this hearing and allowing me to be heard.

One in eight women will be affected with breast cancer and the mission of the Komen Foundation is education, screening, research and treatment. We are able to fund those events and those activities every year through the Komen San Antonio Race for the Cure. From the inception of the race in San Antonio, which is now in its seventh year, Clear Channel stations, KMMX, KAJA, KQXT, WOAI AND KTKR and Clear



Channel television station WOAI have played a critical role in the media sponsorship of this event. The first year of the race we had about 1800 people and raised about \$75,000. The race is going to be at the end of March, and thanks to their support, we're expecting to raise a million dollars in one day, and we're hoping to see 30,000 people.

I'll cut my remarks short, but I just want to tell you that we are so appreciative of what they're able to do in this community. Thanks for your time.

(Applause.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Hi. Hi, my name is Teresa Allen. I'm on the national board of Pacifica Radio and I'm on the local board of KPFT radio in Houston, and you can go their web page, at [www.pacifica.org](http://www.pacifica.org).

Educator Jonathan Kozol says you cannot fatten sheep by weighing them, and you cannot teach children by testing them. I believe that the cornerstone of democracy is an informed citizenry capable of critical analysis and engaged, and I don't feel that you can have democracy with a media that focuses almost exclusively on escapism, marketing, avoiding controversy, sensationalism and pursuit of the

dollar. Thank you very much, Mr. Copps and Mr. Adelstein.

(Applause)

I'm not finished yet. I am very much concerned that the children that we were talking about earlier today, protecting, that they will be those children that are so easily indoctrinated and led around by sheep — like sheep, because of the problem of media consolidation, because we are not teaching critical analysis, we are not giving people the facts, and Mr. Powell, I would bid you to please do something about this. Turn it around. Thank you.

(Applause.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Good evening. Thank you for your long day. We appreciate your attention. My name is Tyler Cox. I'm the Director of News and Operations for Infinity Broadcasting's KRLD in Dallas. We're the all-news radio station serving Dallas-Ft Worth. Every hour of every day, seven days a week, 365 days a year, we are providing local news weather, traffic and sports information to the metropolitan area.

I'm here in my role though, tonight, as the Chairman of the Dallas-Ft. Worth Amber Plan Task

Force. You've heard much of it tonight. I just wanted to reinforce the fact that the Amber Plan that is in place today and is growing around the nation, is the direct result of broadcasters in Dallas listening to a listener.

A woman who became concerned, called her favorite radio station, suggested that radio could do something, and now we have the national focus of the Amber Plan today. It's in place in communities all across the country because broadcasters in Dallas-Ft. Worth banded together to create a plan that make a difference. It saves lives and clearly demonstrates that broadcasters are listening and are in tune with local needs and issues in their communities. Thank you.

(Applause.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Mr. Chairman, FCC Commissioners, panelists, dignitaries, thanks for the opportunity to speak tonight. I just had back surgery four weeks ago and drove up two and a half hours to be here and stood in line since 4:00 p.m., but that doesn't matter to me. My name is Manny Garcia, and I represent the Academy of Tejano Artists and Musicians right here in San Antonio, Texas.

(Applause.)

First of all, let me explain the mission of our organization is to create and mobilize a unified effort of Tejano artists and musicians and formulate a membership organization that will fill the present void in the Tejano music. We intend to recognize and honor talent without the premise of record sales or any other type of monetary gain in an effort to diversify and elevate the standards of the current condition. Our board of directors are all musicians and artists of many years of experience. Our advisory board members are part of this community. They are prominent businessmen and women, a national organization and elected officials.

I believe that we should all return to the basic principles as it was stated and it was mentioned earlier, and that is reminding ourselves that all of us own the airwaves. Radio listeners want to hear a wider range of music that includes local musicians and talent. We hear too little of the music we like and grew up with. Local artists and musicians are underexposed on the radio. We would like less repetition, more new music, and I believe that more local acts would make radio more appealing to a larger

audience. Radio as I see it today does not serve the diverse cultural needs of the American citizen, because substantial ethnic and regional economic populations are not provided the service to which they are entitled to. I can go on and go on, but because time is limited, and I want to afford the opportunity to my other colleagues and friends, I thank you for your time here tonight. Have a good night.

(Applause.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Thank you. Mic check. Thank you very much. My name is George Cisneros. I'm a native San Antonian, a fifth generation content creator. My great-great-grandfather was a printer. His son was a printer, my grandfather, the grandson was a printer. My uncles in my mother's family were printers, and I am in digital content development which is really about the same stuff.

And my concern about localism is the simple fact tonight that if this was a local thing, where are the local elected officials? If you look around the room tonight, not a single local elected official who would be making judgments about local issues is here tonight, because the deal probably has already been cut, and I'm really sad. It's frightening

that those kinds of things are happening. But you're here, you're doing the show. I welcome you to San Antonio and while you're in San Antonio, I know you're getting tired of everything while you're at the table here, why don't you try some of our local food, and not go to a group — place like Denny's, which is a consolidated food industry and listen to our local radio.

I really wish — wish you the best of luck, Mr. Powell, and one of the things about San Antonio that makes it work is that people work one-on-one. We can go to a station manager, we can still go — still go to a few station owners. You know, I can pick up the phone and call Steve or call Bob, or you know, somebody, and complain if I wanted to. Because they're here in San Antonio. But not all the communities in my state have the luxury of having the owners in their towns.

And we grew up in a printing family. We grew up with small newspapers. We grew up where people could come in and talk to the owner, and I really think that that's a very American democra — democratic concept, is talking to the owner of a business when you've got a problem. And you can't do that right now

if we go towards consolidation. So, thank you very much. I am a little angry about the whole issue, but I know it's been a long night, so bear with us. In San Antonio public policy is a contact sport. We take it very seriously. We take our water, our food and our band width very seriously, so keep that in mind.

(Applause.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Chairman Powell, members of the Commission. For the record, my name is Jack M. Finger. Yes, and so I ask: Is your Enforcement Chief David Solomon here today?

CHAIRMAN POWELL: (Moving head side to side.)

Not here today? Hm, okay. Well, you know, the reason I ask is because, you see, last October the U2 singer, Bono, he glowingly spoke the "F" word. Yes, the "F" word on national TV, and instead of blowing the whistle on him, your Mr. Solomon merely said, quote, the use of specific words including expletives or other four letter words does not, and I repeat not, does not render material obscene, unquote.

Um. Okay. So my question is: How on earth did this man get hired by you in the first place? Worse yet, what is this guy still doing being

employed by you? You know, if you, yes, you, the Commissioners had decency among yourselves, had even a lick of integrity or character, all of you would sit down with this man and explain to him, Dave, what you did was just totally unacceptable. We don't accept obscenities on national TV, and please don't do these kinds of things again, just before you fired him.

Now, yeah, I mean, that's right, you have become a paper tiger, a toothless lion. But — I mean, it's no wonder our children are not safe in front of TV anymore. Now, what does it take — does it take thousands or hundreds of thousands of irate citizens calling their U.S. Senators telling you to get serious about this stuff?

Now, you'll say, Mr. Finger, don't worry. We already fined Clear Channel nearly a million dollars for the obscenities on their TV with the — with the Sponge Bob situation there, for 26 indecency violations. I say whoopee do. That's about eight, eight grand for each violation, which they'll pass onto the consumer. Yeah. And it's obvious you did that only because — among others, but you put others, because others are finally putting your administration under the microscope. I think you know what needs to



be done here. Thank you.

(Applause.)

AUDIENCE MEMBER: Chairman — Chairman Powell, member Commissioners. My name is Van Lobrito (phonetic), a local citizen. Thank you for this opportunity to let me speak to you. I'm here at this hearing to express my deep concern with the increasing and continuing flood of sexual explicit material, biased network news that is more akin to propaganda and religious bigotry that television daily spews out warring against the American family and our nation's very foundation.

In the 1950's as most of us know, television was a safe haven for families. No longer. In subsequent decades networks have continued to push the envelope to newer and low — newer and newer lows of moral darkness and depravity. What was unthinkable is now daily fare. Anthropologist... (inaudible) ...made an exhaustive study of more than 80 primitive and advanced civilizations. Each culture — each culture reflected a similar pattern. Those civilizations with strict sexual codes made the greatest cultural progress. Every society that extended sexual permissive to its people soon perished.